

GC
929.2
ST398MEF

M. L.

GC
929.2
ST398MEE

REYNOLDS HISTORICAL
GENEALOGY COLLECTION

ALLEN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY



3 1833 01393 6650

GC

929.2

ST398MEE

A SKETCH OF A
REVOLUTIONARY SOLDIER

JAMES STEVENSON

1754—1845

AND HIS DESCENDANTS

A SKETCH OF A
REVOLUTIONARY SOLDIER

Capt. JAMES STEVENSON
AND HIS DESCENDANTS.

BY A GREAT-GRANDSON,

BASIL MEEK

August, 1912

20 copies reprinted with an appendix by
J. F. Boggs, Filley, Nebraska

1926

Printed by George T. Edmon

E9
S8453

1695647

SKETCH OF CAPT. JAMES STEVENSON
A REVOLUTIONARY SOLDIER



Capt. James Stevenson, whose surname is also known as Stinson, a soldier in the war of the American Revolution, was born in Lancaster county, Pa., December 10, 1754, and died at the home of his granddaughter, Malinda Develin, wife of Henry Develin, in Milton, Wayne county, Ind., May 24, 1845, aged 90 years, 5 months and 14 days. His wife was Mary Gess, who was born May 30, 1755, and died at Connersville, Ind., December 2, 1822, aged 67 years, 6 months and 3 days. He did not again marry. He was buried in the cemetery at Jacksonburgh, Wayne county, Ind., and according to the best information to be now obtained, husband and wife rest side by side, but there is nothing to mark the wife's grave, to be found. A slab was placed at his grave by his relatives, containing the inscription of his name, age and date of death, but nothing as to his military service and rank. This slab having become broken, and otherwise injured, by time, the writer hereof, in 1911, caused a neat head-stone, furnished by the United States government, at his request, to be placed at the grave, containing his name,

✓
Xerated - 1932

dates of birth and death, together with his military rank and service inscribed thereon, instead of the broken and injured one.

A copy of the soldier's military record, as furnished by the War Department at Washington, D. C., and herein given below, was deposited with the G. A. R. post at Cambridge City, Wayne county, Ind., and also a like copy was deposited with the chapter of the D. A. R. at Richmond, in that county, the county wherein he died and wherein his honored mortal remains found their final repose. Professor Samuel K. Hoshour, a noted educator, and minister of the religious denomination, known as "Christians," officiated at the funeral obsequies of the deceased soldier, and delivered an appropriate address. The family had been adherents of the "Newlight" faith.

The name is said to be Scandinavian, and originally known as Steansen, from which probably the two different ways of spelling, namely, Stinson and Stevenson, are derived. There is among his family, a tradition to this import. The name is sometimes spelled Stephenson and this soldier's name thus appears in his pension certificate, although he enlisted as James Stevenson, which as the writer is informed by the last surviving grandchild, Cynthia Ann Modlin, who died November 15, 1911, he always claimed to be correct. His name appears both ways, Stinson and Stephenson, in records of deeds to and from him, for real estate in Greenville, and in Greene county, Tenn., where he lived from the close of the war, until 1810 and also in the record of his appointment as Register of Deeds of that county. By the name of James

Stinson he was appointed Register of Deeds in 1793, and again in 1798, and by this name owned town lots in Greenville and also one tract of 200 acres and another of 50 acres of land, on Lick Creek in Greene county, Tenn.

By the name of James Stephenson he was appointed Collector of Taxes of that county in 1787; and in 1790, there owned 300 acres of land on Lick Creek, and also acted as Attorney-in-fact, in a real estate matter, for one Robert Stephenson. Here it may be stated that some of the family relatives of Colonel Mills Stephenson, for whom was named Fort Stephenson at Lower Sandusky (now Fremont, Ohio), noted for its heroic and successful defense against the British and Indians by Major George Croghan, August 2, 1813, were known, both as Stinson and Stephenson, in their family history. The name hereafter in this sketch, will appear as Stinson, the name by which our soldier and his family was usually known.

Among the family relatives, it was understood that James Stinson (Stevenson) was of Scotch-Irish descent. The writer has made diligent search for definite information concerning his ancestry and early life, but back of, and between the time of his birth in Lancaster county, Pa., in 1754, as given by himself in his pension application, and the date of his enlistment in 1776, no data can now be found furnishing any light upon this subject. Sometime prior to the age of 22, as it would appear, he had immigrated to and was living in the western frontier of North Carolina, which region afterwards became Washington county, N. Tenn., for here he enlisted June 15, 1776,

as his military record shows. Just when he settled in the region of his enlistment, and whether he then was married or not, does not anywhere appear. It would seem, however, that he must have been married and settled in a home before the date of his discharge in December, 1781, for, on the night before his return home his house and its contents were consumed by fire—a sad home-coming in one respect, but joyous in the fact that his family was saved, as he would in later life state when speaking of the event.

After the close of the war he at first lived, as we have seen, in Greene county, Tenn., until 1810, when he moved to Sparta, White county, W. Tenn., where he resided until 1815, at which date he went to live in Franklin county, Ind., where he remained till 1819, and then moved to Fayette county, Ind., and there resided for one year; and in 1820 settled in Wayne county, Ind., where he resided till the death of his wife in 1822; after which he lived among his children in Wayne, Henry and Fayette counties, Indiana, until his death in 1845.

While living at Sparta, Tenn., he there kept a tavern and had among his guests entertained General Andrew Jackson, which fact he in after years would relate with much pride, being a devoted admirer of his distinguished former guest and a staunch Jacksonian Democrat all his life. Here he suffered the loss of sight of both eyes from a singular disease of the eye, affecting the optic nerves, resulting in the complete paralysis of the same; and, strange to relate, his wife Mary and daughter Nancy were about the same time both afflicted in the same way, resulting in the loss, to the wife, of the sight of one of her eyes, and his daughter Nancy becoming totally blind.

The writer well remembers seeing him in the late thirties, while he was visiting at the home of the writer's mother, Salina Stinson Meek, in Wayne county, Ind. She had named a son for him, James Stinson Meek, and he by way of compliment gave her for her boy, then four years old, a silver dollar, from his purse of pension money. The writer also remembers his personal appearance as being attractive, and with what peculiar interest he, a small boy, observed him, blind as he was, neatly peeling peaches he was eating at the time. He was then over 80 years of age, of medium size, with rather full habit of body, fair complexion, delicate skin, ruddy face and on his head a fair quantity of straight silvery white hair of medium length and silky fineness, combed down back of his ears. A lock of his hair was taken from his venerable head, in his 86th year, by his great-granddaughter, Cynthia Ann Develin, now living and the widow of James R. Pumphrey, when she was only ten years old, while combing his head, as was her custom, and also to lead him about while he lived at her mother's, he being blind, as already mentioned. A portion of this precious lock, carefully preserved during all these years by this great-granddaughter, was recently presented by her to Mary Meek Dudrow, a great-great-granddaughter of the subject of this sketch, and a daughter of the writer, a memento highly prized by her.

Mrs. Pumphrey remembers him as of marked kindness of disposition, gentle and lovable in character. He would frequently sit before the log fire with bowed head, as if in deep thought; and when he wanted to go to the stores in town to talk over Revolutionary

times with friends, he would say to her: "Come, Cynthia, take granddaddy a walk." She would then lead him to where he wanted to go, watch over him and conduct him back home when he had finished his visits.

MILITARY RECORD

He volunteered June 15, 1776, in Captain Jacob Womack's company of Rangers, North Carolina troops, and served until October 10, 1776.

Volunteered October 15, 1776, as first sergeant of Captain James Shelby's company under Colonel Williams, in the Cherokee Expedition, and served three months.

Volunteered in 1777. Captain Joseph Wilson's company of Rangers in Colonel John Carter's regiment, and served until the first of September.

Volunteered in May or June, 1778, as lieutenant in Captain Benjamin Gess's company, Colonel Carter's regiment, and served four months during that year.

In November, 1779, he was commissioned captain, and served as such from April 10, 1780, until the middle of January, 1781, in Colonel John Sevier's regiment, and was engaged in building Crawford's Fort, in a skirmish with Indians at the Blue Springs on Boyd's Creek, and destroying Indian towns.

He was ordered out in April, 1781, as a captain of Rangers, by Colonel Sevier, marched through North Carolina, remained in South Carolina, until after the surrender of Cornwallis, and served until the last of December, 1781.

On October 4, 1796, he was commissioned captain of cavalry of Washington District, Tennessee, by Governor John Sevier, who had been his colonel in the Revolutionary War, and was now the first governor of Tennessee, a strong indication of the high esteem in which he was held as a soldier and patriot.

He was pensioned December 29, 1832, under the Act of June 7, 1832, at the Cincinnati, Ohio, agency at \$439.99 per annum from March 4, 1831.

DESCENDANTS

The following list of lineal descendants is not claimed to be complete, except as to children, and probably grandchildren, but contains, it is believed, most of them. Dates of births and deaths are not given. In many instances such dates were not obtainable and for that reason all have been omitted. Lineal descendants only being given, the names of husbands and wives respectively of male and female of such descendants are omitted.

CHILDREN

SAMUEL

JAMES

JOHN

POLLY [Harrison]

SALLY [O'Neal]

AMY [Alexander]

NANCY

MARTHA

NARCISSA

All born in Tennessee.

Martha, on the eve of her expected marriage, was accidentally drowned while endeavoring on horseback to cross a swollen stream in Tennessee.

GRANDCHILDREN

Malinda, daughter of Nancy Stinson

Alford and Maria, children of Polly (Stinson) Harrison

Margaret, Mary H. and William, children of Sally (Stinson) O'Neal

John, Harvey, Theodore, Mary Jane and Sarah Ann, children of Amy (Stinson) Alexander

William, James, Martha, Salina, Polly, Leann and Cynthia Ann, children of John Stinson. Cynthia Ann Stinson, widow of Mark Modlin, the last surviving grandchild, died at New Castle, Ind., November 17, 1911, aged 94 years and 2 days.

William, James, Martha, Mary and Louisa, children of Narcissa (Stinson) Boyd

Adalaide and Narcissa Stinson, daughters of either Samuel or James Stinson, but nothing definite as to their respective kinship with Samuel or James Stinson is known to the writer. It is not known whether they were sisters or not. They were, however, grandchildren of the subject of our sketch.

GREAT-GRANDCHILDREN

Lewis B.,* Milton M., Anthony, Joel L., William J. and Mary E., children of Martha (Stinson) Boggs

Basil, Laurinda, Cynthia J., James S. and Thomas J., children of Salina (Stinson) Meek

Lafayette, George, William, James, Sarah, Narcissa and Cynthia Ann, children of Malinda (Stinson) Develin

Malinda, daughter of Polly (Stinson) McLaughlin (1st marriage)

*See Appendix.

Oliver, Jefferson, William, John, James, Melissa, Lizzie and Josephine, children of Polly (Stinson) Lewis (2nd marriage)

Sarah, Louisiana, Viretta, Julia, Emma, Merchant, John and William, children of William Stinson

George, Ephraim, John, Arminta and William, children of James Stinson, son of John Stinson

John S., William H., Frederick, Clinton, David, Harrison, James M., Leander, George, Katherine and Annie, children of Leann (Stinson) Hoover

John H., Alcander, William W., Frank P., Sarah J., Elizabeth, Hester Ann, Leann and Emma B., children of Cynthia Ann (Stinson) Modlin

GREAT-GREAT-GRANDCHILDREN

James F.,* Lewis W., Charles S., Luther H., Thomas W., B. Frank, Eva L., Mary E., Alice C., Virginia and Midgie, children of Dr. Lewis B. Boggs

Emma, Alice and Minnie, children of Dr. Milton M. Boggs

Elizabeth, Horace, Daniel, Mae and Carrie, children of Anthony W. Boggs

Charles A., Alwilda, Emma and Ella, children of Joel L. Boggs

William, May, Alice, Walter and Lillian, children of William J. Boggs

Lewis, William, Charles and Jane, children of Mary E. (Boggs) Winton

Minerva B., Mary Elizabeth, Leonore Belle, Flora Basil, Clara Cynthia and Dr. Robert Basil, children of Basil Meek

*See Appendix.

Harry F., Charles S., James B., H. Clay, Sallie, Mahala, Emma and Mary, children of James S. Meek

Cynthia J., Laura C., Flora M. and Homer Meek, children of Laurinda (Meek) Clement, wife of Stephen Clement

James Basil, William Jasper, Virginia Salina, Lenora Belle, Mary L., Sherman B., George A., Ruby L. and Clara Maude, children of Cynthia J. (Meek) Clement, wife of Jesse H. Clement

Gusta, Emma, Gertrude, Anna, Lynn C., Horace W. and Walter H., children of William Boyd

Alice, Eva and Minnie Peed, children of Martha (Boyd) Peed, first wife of James Peed

Jennie and Catherine Peed, children of Louisa (Boyd) Peed, second wife of James Peed

Edward, Emma and Boyd Bond, children of Mary (Boyd) Bond

Narcissa and Margaret Boyd, children of James Boyd

George and Martha, children of Hester Ann (Modlin) Byer

Lillian M., Frank D., Jessie E., Hazel S. and Eugene H., children of William W. Modlin

Howard, son of Alexander Modlin

Eugene B. and Catherine, children of Leah Ann (Modlin) Mullen

Ethel, Harry, Mark, Everett, John, Olive and Georgie, children of Frank P. Modlin

Mary K., Lewis M., Charles F., Emma C., Lafayette, Jr., and Carrie May, children of Lafayette Develin

Alice, Emma F., Frank and Clarence, children of Cynthia Ann (Develin) Pumphrey

Pauline and Katherine K., children of Annie (Hoover) Lynn

Edward B. and Nadine, children of Katherine (Hoover) Wilson

Howard L. and Fred, children of Harrison Hoover

Montford M., Horace E., George A., Albert C., Nellie M. and Homer M., children of James M. Hoover

William G., Clara E. and Howard L., children of John S. Hoover

Frank, Charles and Eva, children of Frederick Hoover

GT.-GREAT-GREAT-GRANDCHILDREN

Mary Basil, Rachel, Dorothy and Henry Meek, children of Clara (Meek) Edgerton

Robert, son of Leonore Belle (Meek) Grover

Dudley Holmes and Shirley, children of Charles S. Meek

Horace Meek, Hubert, Morna, and Willis, children of Sallie (Meek) Hickam

Charles Meek, son of James B. Meek

James Francis and Martha Mahala, children of Mahala (Meek) Boyd and Lynn C. Boyd, both parents being lineal descendants of the Revolutionary soldier ancestor

Dale Clement and James Basil, sons of Clara Maude (Clement) Allen

Etta B. and Floyd, children of Flora (Clement) DeLong

Ora Maude, Mabel and Royal, children of Laura (Clement) Edwards

Ruby L., Homer Meek and Stoy W., children of James Basil Clement

Archie M., Bertha R. and Lloyd H., children of Lenora Belle (Clement) Engle

Archie R., Frank, Richard M., Ethel M.
and Agnes F., children of Sherman B. Clement
Ruth and Robert L., children of Ethel
(Modlin) Edwards

Margaret L., daughter of Howard Modlin

Lorene, daughter of Harry Modlin

John B. and William P., children of Hazel
(Modlin) Wallace

Helen, Margaret, Edith and Clifford L.,
children of Lillian (Modlin) Gough

Harry and Alice Coddington, children of
Alice (Pumphrey) Coddington

Wendell, son of Ella (Boggs) Ashcroft

Channing W. and Mary E., children of Ed-
ward B. Wilson

Willard, son of Howard L. Hoover

Bessie M., Helen D. and Lowell C., child-
ren of Horace E. Hoover

Clyrol Margaret, Glenn H. and Marvel
H., children of George A. Hoover

Homer A., child of Homer M. Hoover

Emil H., child of Montford W. Hoover

Zena, Zita and Helen, daughters of Char-
les A. Boggs

Charles Earl, son of Alwilda (Boggs) Corey

John H., Benjamin G., George L., Barth-
old S., and Clara L., children of Clara (Hoov-
er) Kochler

GT.-GT.-GT.-GT.-GRANDCHILDREN

Virginia N. Temple, daughter of Rachel
(Edgerton) Temple.—Winona Tharpe, daugh-
ter of Ruby L. (Clement) Tharpe.—Virginia
O'Leary, daughter of Bertha R. (Engle) O'Lea-
ry—Laura W., Jennie Meek and Ora E., child-
ren of Mabel (Edwards) Reid.—William W.,
son of Etta B. (DeLong) Andrews.

APPENDIX

GT.-GT.-GT.-GRANDCHILDREN

JAMES FRASER BOGGS, son of Dr. Lewis Bowen Boggs and Virginia Rebecca (Fraser) Boggs, was born Jan. 7, 1856, at North Manchester, Ind. He moved to Bureau county, Ill., and about 1868 back to Marshall county, Ind., with his parents and family. They came to Nebraska in 1872, settling on a farm near Filley, Gage county. He married March 28, 1882, at Beatrice, Neb., Laura Elizabeth Faulder, Rev. A. Davis officiating. Children:

- 1 Ethel Lucile Boggs, born Apr. 20, 1887
- 2 Clyde Boggs, born Dec. —, 1890: died in infancy
- 3 Edgar D. Boggs, born Oct. 29, 1893

GT.-GT.-GT.-GT.-GRANDCHILDREN

ETHEL LUCILE BOGGS was married August 22, 1916, to Glen William Hildreth. Child:

- 1 Richard Armand Hildreth

EDGAR D. BOGGS was married June 21, 1916, to Ruby Camille McPherson at Beatrice, Nebraska, by Rev. B. F. Gaither.

